



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

Region One
490 North Meridian Rd.
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 752-5501
FAX: 406-257-0349
Ref:DV104-01
March 21, 2001

TO: Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Helena, 59620-1704
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Metcalf Bldg., PO Box 200901, Helena, 59620-0901
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Director's Office – Rich Clough
Fisheries Division – Karen Zackheim
Lands – Darlene Edge
P-R, D-J – Bobbi Keeler

Parks Division – Jeff Erickson, Allan Kuser
Legal Unit
Design & Construction – Dick Mayer

Montana Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, 225 North Roberts, Veteran's Memorial Building, Helena, 59620-1201

Montana State Library, 1515 East Sixth Ave., Helena, 59620-1800

Jim Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, PO Box 1184, Helena, 59624

George Ochenski, PO Box 689, Helena, 59624

Wayne Hirst, Montana State Parks Foundation, PO Box 728, Libby, 59923

Montana State Parks Association, PO Box 699, Billings, 59103

Joe Gutkoski, President, Montana River Action Network, 304 N 18th Ave., Bozeman, 59715

Rep. Verdell Jackson, 555 Wagner Lane, Kalispell, 59901-8079

Sen. Bob DePratu, PO Box 1217, Whitefish, 59937-1217

Rep. Bob Raney, 212 S. 6th, Livingston, 59047

Flathead County Commissioners, 800 S Main Street, Kalispell, 59901

Flathead County Library, 247 First Avenue E, Kalispell, 59901


Flathead Wildlife, Inc., PO Box 4, Kalispell, 59903

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for **Boisverts fishing access site**. The project proposes to upgrade facilities, consider additional facilities, and redesign sites to protect the resource and improve public recreational use.

Questions and comments will be accepted until April 20, 2001. Please direct your questions or comments to Marty Watkins, Regional Parks Manager, FWP, 490 N. Meridian Road, Kalispell, MT, 59901, or e-mail to mawatkins@state.mt.us. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dan Vincent
Regional Supervisor

DV/nli
Enclosure

36.9

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BOISVERT'S
FISHING ACCESS SITE



Fish, Wildlife & Parks
490 North Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

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DRAFT

MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of Proposed State Action: Capital Development of Fishing Access Site.
2. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action: Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 490 North Meridian Road, Kalispell, MT 59901, (406) 751-4573, e-mail: mawatkins@state.mt.us.
3. Name of Project: Boisverts Fishing Access Site.
4. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency):
5. If Applicable:
Estimated Construction/Commencement Date: April, 2001.
Estimated Completion Date: December, 2001
Current Status of Project Design (% complete): 85 %
6. Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township): Flathead County, South ½ of Sec. 6, T. 26 N., R. 25 W. (Appendix A).
7. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:
 - (a) Developed:
residential.....__ acres
industrial.....__ acres
 - (B) Open Space/Woodlands:
Recreation..... 3.5 acres
 - (C) Wetlands/Riparian:
Areas..... 1 acres
 - (d) Floodplain..... __ acres
 - (e) Productive:
irrigated cropland..... __ acres
dry cropland..... __ acres
forestry __ acres
rangeland..... __ acres
other..... __ acres
8. Map/site plan: attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.

9. **Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project, Including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.**

Boisverts Fishing Access Site is located on the northwestern end of McGregor Lake adjacent to US Highway 2, a major east-west highway, approximately 35 miles west of Kalispell (Appendix A). McGregor Lake, with a total of 1,328 acres, is a part of and included in the TCL Management Plan.

In November of 1993, after an extended public comment period, a Management Plan and Environmental Assessment was completed for the TCL. In that document the following management direction evolved:

1. The TCL property will be managed as a Fishing Access Site, with traditional, dispersed recreational use.
2. Protection of resources such as wildlife, fisheries, vegetation, historical and archeological, and water quality will be given priority.
3. An inventory and site-specific plans for TCL would be completed and public comment sought on the plans. Facilities that could be considered would include boat ramps, toilets, fences, road repair, parking, access for the disabled, fire rings, and signs, and redesign of sites or a combination of sites to protect the resource and improve public recreational use.

After adoption of the Management Plan and Environmental Assessment, FWP, a private consultant, and a group of individuals representing various interests in the TCL formed a recreational subcommittee to the TCL Oversight Committee. The subcommittee recommended that management be directed toward leaving conditions as "they currently exist" or combining or expanding some sites to better suit recreational needs, a primary goal in the TCL Management Plan.

As the result of this Management Plan, the decision for McGregor Lake (Appendix B) was to:

- (1) Investigate possibility of acquiring additional property at Boisverts to provide public access.
- (2) Provide accessibility for the handicapped at Boisverts site.
- (3) Provide a vault toilet.

In the past, Boisverts had been a well-known resort catering to local users, as well as tourists from other parts of Montana and surrounding states. Locals recall dances being held as late as the 1950s. During the 70s and early 80s, a restaurant was located at this site. However, recreational styles were changing and the resort popularity decreased. It was closed and sold to a private party interested in putting an RV campground on the site. This plan fell through due to financial considerations.

A parcel of land adjacent to the western property line was sold in the late 1990s and subdivided into three lots. These lots were sold in 1998, 1999, and 2000. See Photo #1 on next page.

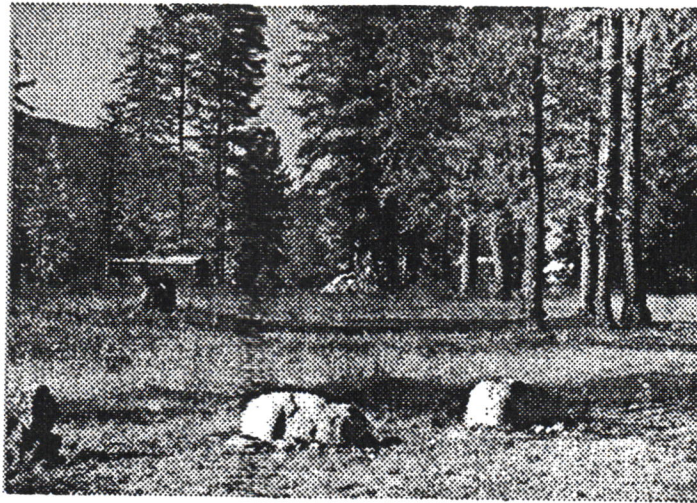


Photo # 1. Property to the west of the fishing access site showing the cabins on the property. (Photo by Worthington, Oct. 15, 2000)

The Boisverts property became available for purchase in 1998, and negotiations with FWP to purchase the land began soon after. Public meetings were held in Libby and Kalispell in 1997, and an environmental assessment was prepared in the same year. Comments received at the meetings and through the mail heavily favored the purchase by FWP.

The decision was made that FWP would purchase the property. The old lodge and dance hall were sold prior to the FWP purchase and were dismantled and removed from the site. An agreement reached in the decision to purchase the property was to have a manned host pad on the site during the summer season to mitigate concerns of neighbors.

There has been heavy boat launching use at Boisverts and sport fishing pressure on McGregor Lake. From March 1999 to February 2000, there has been an estimated 8,243 days of fishing use. From 1996 to the present, 50,000 rainbow trout have been stocked in the lake in early spring. Boisverts is one of the highest use sites on the lake, having as many as 50-plus cars using the site on weekends from May through June during the last three to four years.

Minor work was performed at Boisverts FAS in 2000 as a temporary measure to make the site more friendly to the recreating public. Improvements included relocating the boat dock, placing temporary porta potties, signing, and having a volunteer host at the site, as was agreed during the acquisition.

A master site plan (Appendix C) includes reconstruction and an upgrade of the site: a relocated entrance; parking; providing a host pad with electrical power, drain field, and water well; a double-wide concrete ramp, including a rolling dock; stone barriers; facilities to make the site accessible; relocation of power lines; a future fishing platform; blacktopped roads and parking lot; and an accessible vault toilet. Due to the size of the site and agreements reached during the acquisition, this will be a day use site only, with no overnight camping.

All phases of the plan will not be accomplished immediately. Present estimates indicate a 5-10 year completion timeline for all phases as dollars and priorities dictate.

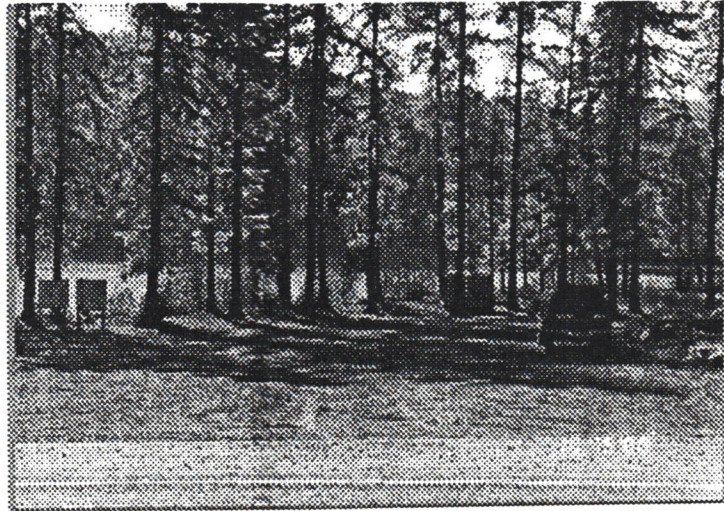


Photo # 2. The site as it appears today with signs and porta potties. (Photo by Worthington)

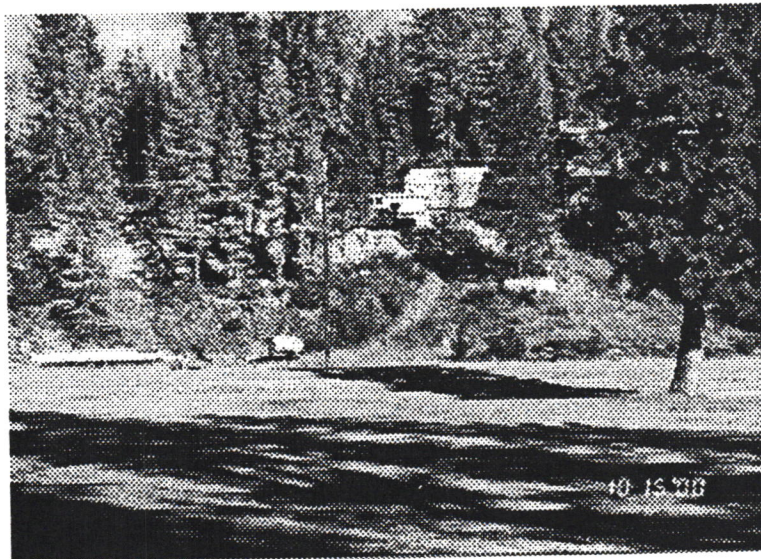


Photo # 3. View from the parking lot looking north across the highway toward a summer home group. (Photo by Worthington).

There is presently a boat ramp located at the Forest Service Campground, at the southwest corner of the lake, 1½ miles away . This ramp is located a half mile off Highway #2 and is closed before the water

freezes, from early winter to spring. Boisverts, located on the highway, is open year-round and is the historical use location for the recreating public.

Highway #2 was recently reconstructed in the Thompson Chain of Lakes (TCL) area to provide for a more safe travel experience for those recreationists visiting the lakes as well as cross-country travelers using the highway.

10. Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction:

(a) Permits:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
Flathead Regional Development Office	Lakeshore Protection Permit Required	

(b) Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
FWP 25%	\$ 50,941
Wallap Breaux 75%	\$152,825

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
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11. List of Agencies Consulted during Preparation of the EA:

Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), Region 1
Flathead Regional Development Office
Natural Resource Conservation Service, Flathead County
Montana State Historical Office, SHPO
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. <u>LAND RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant*		
a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X		No	1 b
c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

1 b. There will be some disruption and displacement of the soil during the grading of the site. Some compaction will occur and areas will be blacktopped or graveled on the roads and parking lots, which will reduce on-site productivity for grasses and shrubs. Those areas not impacted by the over-covering will be seeded to native grasses to retain their natural condition as much as possible. The over-covering material will help reduce erosion and siltation.

- ☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- ▶ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

2. <u>AIR</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
► a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))			X		Yes	2a.
b. Creation of objectionable odors?			X		Yes	2b. See 2a
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
◆ e. For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a)		X				
f. Other _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

2 a. Air pollutants and objectionable odors will be emitted into the air. This will occur during the construction period with the use of construction equipment, and only when the equipment is running, but may be objectionable within a short distance from the construction area. The air quality will return to its normal clean quality after the construction is complete.



Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated. 7

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)



Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.



Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

3. <u>WATER</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant*		
► a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?			X		No	3a
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?			X		No	3b
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
◆◆l. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c)		X				
◆m. For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a)		X				
n. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

3a,b. The conversion of the access road and parking area from gravel to pavement may result in a slight increase in runoff, particularly from the boat parking area. Parking lot design and engineering will mitigate this impact, routing water away from the boat ramp into vegetation that will act as a filter for runoff. Best Management Practices during maintenance work will also help to mitigate any runoff problems.

- ☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

4. <u>VEGETATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant*		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?		X				
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?			X		Yes	4e
♦♦f. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		X				
g. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

4e. This site is heavily infested with knapweed. Ground disturbance will invite more noxious weeds. A weed management plan has been incorporated into the management of the site, with spraying already ongoing.

- ☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

▶ 5. <u>FISH/WILDLIFE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
♦♦h. For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f)		X				
♦i. For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d)		X				
j. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- ☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the 10 unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- ▶ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. <u>NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X		Yes	6a
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

6a. There will be some noise increases from construction equipment during the reconstruction of the site. Distance from existing dwellings will reduce this on-site noise to some degree and will cease when construction is complete. Use of the site is not expected to produce excessive noise levels to disturb local residents.



Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the 11 unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

▶ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

7. <u>LAND USE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?			X		Yes	7d
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

7d. The improved boat access and parking area are in view of several residences, and there was a concern that the improvements would draw excessive use and a potential for excessive parties and disturbances in view of these residences. The establishment of a host pad, manned for 24 hours during the heavy use season, will mitigate these types of problems.

- ☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X				
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
♦d. For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)		X				
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the 13 unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
 ♦ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
 ♦♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
 ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
f. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- ⚙ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the 14 unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify: _____		X				
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased used of any energy source?		X				
▶ e. Define projected revenue sources			X			10e
▶ f. Define projected maintenance costs.			X			10f
g. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

10e. Funding for the maintenance of the site comes from the sale of fishing licenses.

10f. Estimated annual cost to operate the site is \$2300.



Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the 15 unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.



Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)



Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.



Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

<p>► 11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u></p> <p>Will the proposed action result in:</p>	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?			X		Yes	11b
► c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)		X				
♦d. For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c)		X				
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

11b. The establishment of a host pad, which will be occupied by a camping trailer or other mobile camping equipment during the heavy use season, will alter the view. The smaller living structure is expected to create a less visual impact than the outdated dance hall and restaurant. Visual impacts of automobile parking will remain about the same as experienced in the past. The overall open design of the area will present a more pleasant and less congested open space. Future paving of the site will alter visuals more, but care has been taken to keep development away from the shoreline as much as possible to limit impacts on adjacent neighbors.

- ☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
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HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

12. <u>CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
►a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		X				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
♦♦d. For P-R/D-I, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a)		X				
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- ⚙ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
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HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?			X		No	13e
♦f. For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e)		X				
♦♦g. For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

13e. The severity of the impacts is not an issue. The fact that the site will be developed as a public fishing and boat access site is the major issue for some adjacent homeowners, and it will create some debate.

- ⚙ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the 18 unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

2. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action, whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider, and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

Alternative No. 1: No Action. The site will remain as it presently is. A host will remain on duty as presently scheduled. A temporary chemical toilet, not accessible to the handicapped, will remain. No other improvements will be provided.

Alternative No. 2: Develop as proposed in the master plan. The Master Site Plan (Appendix C) includes reconstruction and upgrading the site; a relocated entrance; parking; providing a host pad with electrical power, drain field, and water well; a double-wide concrete ramp, including a rolling dock; stone barriers; relocation of power lines; handicapped-accessible concrete walkways; future fishing platform; and a handicapped-accessible vault toilet. Due to the size of the site and agreements reached during the acquisition, this will be a day use site only, with no overnight camping. Due to the constraints of available money to fully finance the construction and other Regional priorities, completion may have to be extended over a period of 5 to 10 years.

Alternative No. 3: No action at the present time, but accept the Master Site Plan, and construct the facility at a later date.

Alternative No. 2 is the preferred alternative.

3. Evaluation and listing of mitigations, stipulations, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

FWP is willing to work with the adjacent landowners to help eliminate or minimize any major concerns they may have regarding the development and management of the area.

4. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? YES / NO If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

An EIS is not required as there are no significant environmental impacts for any alternatives. Social concerns from recreationists and adjacent landowners can best be handled through the EA process.

5. Describe the level of public involvement for this project, if any; and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?

After an extended public comment period in 1993, an EA was approved in 1996 for a Management Plan for the Thompson Chain of Lakes area. A decision at that time was to investigate the possibility of acquiring additional property at Boisverts to provide public access. After further public involvement, the acquisition of Boisverts was approved in 1998. At that time, and after discussions with the public at those public meetings, FWP described the improvements to be made at this site. Many of these improvements included the wishes suggested by the public at these meetings. If an additional meeting is required after distribution of this EA, one will be scheduled.

6. Duration of comment period if any:

30 Days.

7. Name, title, address and phone number of the person(s) responsible for preparing the EA:

Wayne B. Worthington, Consultant and Landscape Architect, ASLA, 365 Summit Ridge Drive, Kalispell, MT 59901, (406) 752-2916, e-mail: wworth@digisys.net.

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

1 b. There will be some disruption and displacement of the soil during the grading of the site. Some compaction will occur and areas will be blacktopped or graveled on the roads and parking lots, which will reduce on-site productivity for grasses and shrubs. Those areas not impacted by the over-covering will be seeded to native grasses to retain their natural condition as much as possible. The over-covering material will help reduce erosion and siltation.

2 a. Air pollutants and objectionable odors will be emitted into the air. This will occur during the construction period with the use of construction equipment, and only when the equipment is running, but may be objectionable within a short distance from the construction area. The air quality will return to its normal clean quality after the construction is complete.

3a,b. The conversion of the access road and parking area from gravel to pavement may result in a slight increase in runoff, particularly from the boat parking area. Parking lot design and engineering will mitigate this impact, routing water away from the boat ramp into vegetation that will act as a filter for runoff. Best Management Practices during maintenance work will also help to mitigate any runoff problems.

4e. This site is heavily infested with knapweed. Ground disturbance will invite more noxious weeds. A weed management plan has been incorporated into the management of the site, with spraying already ongoing.

6a. There will be some noise increases from construction equipment during the reconstruction of the site. Distance from the existing dwellings will reduce this on-site noise to some degree and will cease when construction is complete. Use of the site is not expected to produce excessive noise levels to disturb local residents.

7d. The improved boat access and parking area are in view of several residences, and there was a concern that the improvements would draw excessive use and a potential for excessive parties and disturbances in view of these residences. The establishment of a host pad, manned for 24 hours during the heavy use season, will mitigate these types of problems.

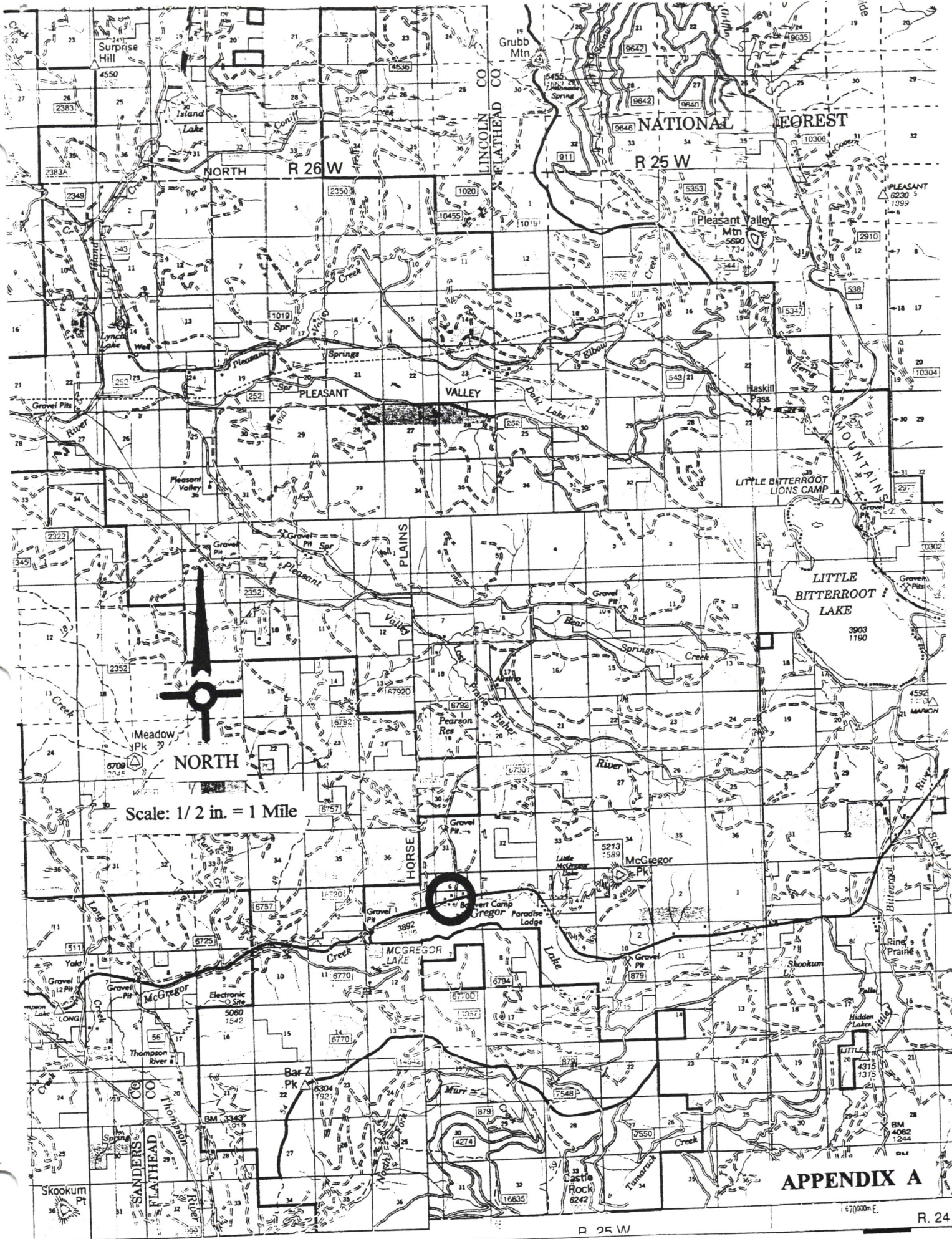
10e. Funding for the maintenance of the site comes from the sale of fishing licenses.

10f. Estimated annual cost to operate the site is \$2300.

11b. The establishment of a host pad, which will be occupied by a camping trailer or other mobile camping equipment during the heavy use season, will alter the view. The smaller living structure is expected to create a less visual impact than the outdated dance hall and restaurant. Visual impacts of automobile parking will remain about the same as experienced in the past. The overall open design of the area will present a more pleasant and less congested open space. Future paving of the site will alter visuals more, but care has been taken to keep development away from the shoreline as much as possible to limit impacts on adjacent neighbors.

13e. The severity of the impacts is not an issue. The fact that the site will be developed as a public fishing and boat access site is the major issue for some adjacent homeowners, and it will create some debate.

APPENDIX



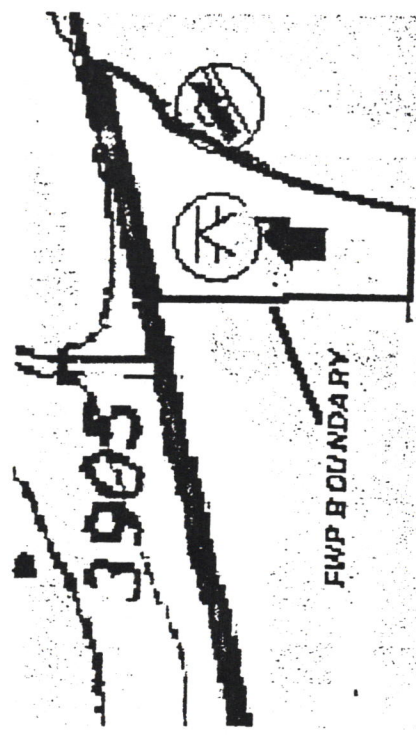
APPENDIX A

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Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks

BOISVERTS INSET



Recreation Facilities

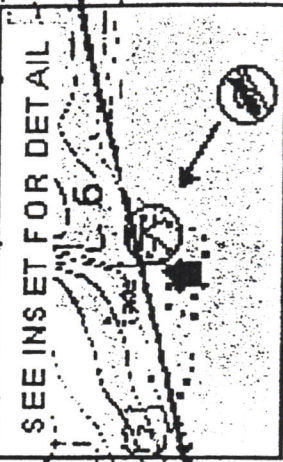
- Designated Campsite
 - Day Use Site
 - Latrine
 - Boat Ramp
- 1500 0 1500 Feet



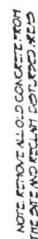
FWP BOUNDARY

FWP BOUNDARY

FWP B



A7 McGregor



GRAPHIC SCALE
(IN FEET)





Montana Historical Society

Historic Preservation Office

1410 8th Avenue • PO Box 201202 • Helena, MT 59620-1202 • (406) 444-7715 • FAX (406) 444-6575

January 26, 2001

Nancy Ivy
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
490 North Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

RE: Boisverts Fishing Access Site EA, SHPO Project #: 2001012412

Dear Ms. Ivy:

I have conducted a cultural resource file search for the project cited above and located in T26N, R25W, Section 6. Our records indicate that there are currently no previously recorded cultural properties within the designated search locale. Our files do show, however, that two cultural resource inventories have been previously conducted in the search area. The report from the first inventory is titled *A Cultural Resources Inventory of the McGregor Lake – East and West Highway Project Area*, and was completed by Mitzi Rossillon in July of 1989. Dennis E. Lewarch, et al. completed the second report in November of 1993, which is titled *Montana – Canada Fiber Optic Line Glacier, Flathead, and Sanders Counties, Montana*. If you would like more information on either of these documents you can contact me at the number listed below.

Based on the previous development and disturbance of the project area we feel the facilities upgrade project at the Boisverts Fishing Access Site has a low likelihood of impacting cultural properties, and therefore a cultural resource inventory is not warranted at this time. However, should cultural materials be identified during the course of the project we ask that our office be contacted and the site investigated.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me at (406) 444-7767 or by e-mail at tgodin@state.mt.us. Thank you for consulting with us.

Sincerely,

Terrence Godin
Cultural Records Manager

File: FWP/FISH/2001